

REMARKS

In response to the final Office Action mailed April 17, 2007, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of all rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, which are believed to place the application in immediate condition for allowance. Claims 11-46 are currently allowed. Claim 4 is currently amended. Claims 1-3 and 5-10 have been cancelled. In sum, claims 4 and 11-46 are currently pending.

I. Allowed and Allowable Claims

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication on page 4 of the Office Action that claims 11-46 are allowed.

Likewise, Applicant notes with equal appreciation the indication on page 4 of the Office Action that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of its base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 4 has been amended in this manner and should now be allowable. Particularly, claim 4 has been amended to include the subject matter of its base claim, claim 1.

II. The Anticipation Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, and 10 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Stradella, *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 3,648,324 (“Stradella”). *See* Office Action at page 2. Particularly, the Examiner contends that Stradella discloses each and every element recited in these claims. *Id.* While Applicant respectfully disagrees with the assertions of the Examiner, Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, and 10 of the present application, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

III. The Rejection of Claims 2 and 8 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Stradella. *See* Office Action at page 2. Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Stradella in view of Prince, U.S. Patent No. 6,213,890 (“Prince”). *See* Office Action at pages 3-4. While Applicant respectfully disagrees with the assertions of the Examiner, Applicant has cancelled claims 2 and 8, thereby rendering these rejections moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw these rejections.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously requested. In order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

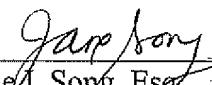
While this Amendment and Response is believed to be timely, in the event that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office requires any additional fee to enter and/or consider this Amendment and Response, or to prevent abandonment of the present application, please charge such fee to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-2613 (Order No. 38841.00002.UTL).

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 17, 2007

By:


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